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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/510,087	02/22/2000	Paul A. Smith	EVS-P-99-017	2705
7590	01/15/2004		EXAMINER	
			WALCZAK, DAVID J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3751	
			DATE MAILED: 01/15/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/510,087	Applicant(s)	SMITH, PAUL A.
Examiner	David J. Walczak	Art Unit	3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9, 11-17, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) 9 and 11-14 is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 15-17 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 19 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Martin et al. (hereinafter Martin). In regard to claims 15 and 16, Jones discloses a marking device accessory kit comprised of a marking device and a sheath 16 (see Figures 5- 6) defined between a first end and a second end which fits around the body of the marking device and forms a gap 15 between the ends thereby leaving a portion of the body not covered (the lower portion of Figure 6 shows such a gap which exposes a portion of the marker. Further, see column 5, lines 44-55). Although the Jones reference does not disclose an end cap which is interchangeable between different markers and a connecting chain, attention is directed to the Martin reference, which discloses another marker wherein an end cap 15 (which is interchangeable between different markers, see lines 82-85) and a chain 14 are connected to an end of the marker in order to enable the marker to be conveniently supported and stored when not in use. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ such an end cap and chain to the Jones device in order to enable the Jones marker to be conveniently supported and stored when not in use. In regard to claim 17, the sheath includes an antimicrobial substance

therein and the method as claimed is inherent in the usage of the device described supra. Although the sheath is formed by mixing plastic and the antimicrobial agent, and the sheath is not coated with the agent as claimed, it is the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the sheath can either be molded with the agent or coated with the agent, without effecting the overall operation of the device, especially since the Applicant has indicated that the agent can be either contained in the material used to make the sheath, or applied to the surface of the sheath.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 11-14 are allowed.

Claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

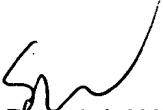
Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Walczak whose telephone number is 703-308-0608. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 6:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg L. Huson can be reached on 703-308-2580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9302.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



David J. Walczak
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3751

DJW
1/14/04